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type reductions of the drawings made by the assistant geologists. Page plates of fossils accompany the chapters of the several formations. These are half-sized reproductions of the figures of fossils given in Report P. 4, Dictionary of the Fossils of Pennsylvania and the surrounding States, published in 1889–1890.

The present report has been evidently written with an eye to the general rather than the scientific public. As a popular synopsis of the geology of Pennsylvania, it will have much utility. As a discussion of the more abstruse problems presented by the structure of the formations of the State, especially of the eastern region, it has less value.

The Earth's History,[2] by R. D. Roberts, is an attempt "to furnish a sketch of the methods and chief results of geological enquiry, such as a reader interested in the subject for its own sake would desire to obtain. It is not intended to be a text-book of Geology." Beginning with a brief history of geological thought, it takes up the earth-history and shows how geologists are enabled to trace the successive steps in the development of the earth's physiography, by reference to the records of the rocks as interpreted by means of the results of investigations into the processes at present active on and beneath its surface.

The central idea of the author is "to reconstruct, from ancient fragmentary remains, the old conditions that characterized the successive stages in the evolution of the land areas; to make out the life-history of the earth," and this idea has determined the method of treatment of the subject matter. The book is not crowded with geological facts, it is not a dry abridgment of some popular manual of geology, but it is exactly what its author intended it should be—an exposition of geological logic. Its style is simple and clear, its statements are accurate, and its various parts are well proportioned. In short, it is an excellent volume for collateral reading for college classes in geology, and a fine introduction to the geological methods for general students.—W. T. B.

Wright's Light,[3] although mainly a discussion of light phenomena that may be projected upon the screen by means of a lantern with the lime light, is nevertheless, an excellent volume for study by the students in the theory of light—natural and polarized. The value of the work to the student of polarized light lies in the fact that many experiments are described that aid one to gain a clear notion of double-refraction, of interference, and of the resolution of vibrations into two sets at right angles to each other, without compelling him to accept the conclusions of mathematical processes. Scattered between chapters dealing with the experimental data are others, in which these data are explained, and a few in which the theory of light vibrations is discussed, the whole forming a logical exposition of the modern theory of light.

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[2] The Earth's History, an Introduction to Modern Geology, by R. D. Roberts, University Extension Manual. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1893, pp. 270, Pl. ix. Price, $1.50.

[3] Light, a course of Experimental Optics, chiefly with the Lantern. By Lewis Wright; 2d Ed. Macmillan & Co., pp. 391, Pl. 9, Figs. 207. Price, $3.25.

Unfortunately for the reader, there are many clumsily-constructed sentences in nearly every chapter of the book, which need much close study before the meaning of their author can be discerned. This fact necessarily detracts from the delight with which the volume would otherwise be perused, but not so much so as would be the case were it not so compactly written. An immense amount of material is collected within its covers, and very little of this matter could well be spared by the student. A little more confidence might have been felt in the author's statements, as representative of the most modern views of light specialists, had he given some evidence of his acquaintance with the wonderful grating of Rutherford and Rowland, instead of mentioning only Noblet's gratings and Barton's buttons in his discussion in diffraction. The imperfections, however, are slight as compared with the abundant good qualities of the book.

The volume is well printed and splendidly illustrated with a wealth of cuts and nine lithographic plates, of which four are beautifully colored.

The student of light phenomena will find many of his difficulties in understanding the theory of his subject cleared away if he will carefully examine the experiments described by Mr. Wright, and thoroughly digest the accompanying explanations.—W. T. B.